



**1116th meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**
7:30PM Wednesday April 22, 2009
Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California

**The 1894 California Midwinter
Exposition**
Jeff Shevlin



Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
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Bulletin Editor: Michael Wehner

Please join us April, 22, 2009 to hear our guest speaker, Jeff Shevlin tell us about the 1894 California Midwinter Exposition held in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Jeff is coming down from the Sacramento area for our meeting and is an expert on so-called dollars. Members won't want to miss this special event and are encouraged to bring their Midwinter Fair memorabilia.

1115th meeting, Tokens and medals of the Wild West

Michael Wehner

Michael practiced a new presentation prepared for the British Token Congress to be held in May of this year in Seattle. As this will be the first and probably only time that the Token Congress will be held in the United States, the organizer asked him to speak about American tokens.

The talk was mainly a survey of Western US exonomia, focusing on the different variety of tokens embellished with stories of some of the more flamboyant characters associated with them. Starting with the post trader tokens of the territorial period, Michael illustrated his presentation with tokens he has handled in the past. Moving on to the most popular type of the Western tokens, those with the word "saloon" actually on the token, provided an opportunity to tell the story of the Old Ship Saloon in San Francisco. This saloon, still operating at the corner of Battery and Pacific Streets, was originally housed in an abandoned Gold Rush ship. The current building sits on top of it.

Michael also showed images of tokens from Tombstone, Arizona, maybe the wildest town in the Wild West. This town was where the "Shoot Out at the OK Corral" happened. Probably the most famous of all gunfights, the Earp brothers took out their grudges on "The Cowboys" by ambushing them. Wyatt Earp escaped unharmed, causing him to become instantly famous. His brother, Virgil Earp, was the actual US marshall in Tombstone. Later, Virgil had a bar in Sawtelle, California near the Veteran's Home. He issued two tokens, now very rare, from

that establishment. One of them was good for a ride, probably from the Veteran's Home to his saloon.

As a final piece of Wild West history for his talk, Michael chose the badge issued in 1856 by the Second Committee of Vigilance in San Francisco. This committee took over a corrupt City government after the murder of James King of William and promptly lynched his killer, James Casey, a member of the Board of Supervisors.

Michael would like to thank the members of the audience for their helpful comments to improve the presentation.



The Virgil Earp transportation token

March 2009 Exhibits

Michael showed a Salt Lake City 2005 Olympic Participant medal. He also had a 1936 Berlin Olympics pin as well as other athletic pins from the Nazi era.

Sandra showed a 1687 James II Maundy set(silver). There was a pence, tuppence, thruppence, and a groat in a box from the time but which was purchased separately.

Whalen showed a George II, Lima silver crown and a half crown from 1746. He also noted that his collection of silver dollars was rated second most complete of all collections surveyed by the Gobrecht Journal!

March 2009 RAFFLE

Whalen won a Denver ANA medal set.

Our guest Gene Kiriluk won the rest of the prizes: a Japanese coin catalog, a 1979 proof set, and an American Bicentennial medal.

2009 Papers contest

Articles are solicited for the next PCNS papers contest. The due date will be the April 2009 meeting. Authors are reminded that all illustrations and photos must have the permission to be used for publication. Also note that many images available on the internet are not in the public domain nor of high enough resolution to be suitable for the quality of publication that we envision. Full contest rules will be available on the PCNS website, www.pcns.org.

The 2007/8 publication has been distributed. Special thanks to editor Steve Huston and publisher Ed Treuting!